

as believing that Mount Kemmel could have been held. It has surely toughened the job of holding the Ypres sector, which I believe should have been relinquished before the fall of Mount Kemmel and the fortified line made on the high ground extending from Kemmel, Mont de Cats and Cassel, St. Omer. If necessary, flood the area from near Ypres back toward Calais. It would have saved a lot of men, guns and ammunition, and given the British a most commanding position. They would have had the high ground to hold and the Germans the low wet ground. We are now holding a good deal of the low ground. The British officers at Dover, Calais, and at several other places we have been have talked about being "fed up" on the war and ready for the Americans to take it over. The talk sometimes was extremely depressing and showed up the British officers in a very poor light. The Canadians and Australians that we have met are entirely different as are also the men we have met up here at the front. As a whole the men we have come in close contact with have been fine fellows.

The attached note from a British Sergeant is indicative of the feeling about the Americans coming over, and I believe our coming has heartened the British a great deal. This Ypres sector which they want to palm off on us and in which our men are now working is known as the "Devils Half Acre." It is a mean place to live in, work in, or fight in, especially in *winter*.

(Enclosure in diary)

Wallon Cappel, 125.  
5.7.'18.

1 (b) A. H. Q.  
Second Army.

Ref. 1 P. C.

Re Morale.

Little or no change from past week.

The increasing arrivals of American troops are creating a good impression.

S. GREENBAGH,

A/Sgt.

*July 27, 1918, Saturday.* Last night was quiet, thanks to the rain and cloudy sky. It has rained more or less all day today, and again I have been in doors most of the time. I am studying the ground between Proven and Ypres and working out the problems of